

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Shay L. Balsis for her time and effort during the telephonic interview with applicants' attorney, John M. Augustyn, on March 1, 2003. During the interview, the following items were discussed: the Office Action dated October 6, 2003; the references cited in the Office Action including U.S. 6,588,045 to Fernandez and U.S. 5,381,579 to Satori; independent claim 1; and an amendment to claim 1 as noted below.

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated October 6, 2003 and the references cited in the Office Action. The Office Action rejected the pending claims under 35 USC § 102 and § 103 in view of various references. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include "the operator gripping portion having a gripping portion axis, the wringer having a distal portion, the distal portion having a distal portion axis, the distal portion axis being disposed at an angle with respect to the gripping portion axis". The references cited in the Office Action neither alone nor in combination teaches or suggests the claimed invention.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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